

The Lexington Intelligencer.

LEXINGTON, LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1901.

No 49

SCHOOL MATTERS.

Report one of Importance to Missourians.

ANNUAL AMOUNT EXPENDED.

Children in School—Statistics That Will Interest You.

Children of school age for Lexington, Mo., 1901. 711,720. Number in daily attendance, 488,965. Teachers' wages, \$4,907,411.27. Fuel, library and supplies, 1,382,898.36. Buildings, furniture, 1,509,949.75.

Amount expended for all schools, \$7,890,158.39. Amount per pupil enrolled, \$11.15. Amount per pupil attending, \$17.15. Length of school term, days, 145. Number of days' attendance, 145. Amount per pupil, \$1.04. Amount per school district having four months' school, \$980. Amount per school district having four and six months' school, \$980. Amount per school district having six and eight months' school, \$980. Amount per school district having eight months or more, \$980.

Male teachers employed, 5,862. Female teachers employed, 10,208. Amount of salaries paid, \$390,000. Amount of salaries paid to teachers, \$308,000. Amount of salaries paid to librarians, \$3,000. Amount of salaries paid to janitors, \$3,000. Amount of salaries paid to janitors, \$3,000. Amount of salaries paid to janitors, \$3,000.

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HIGGINSVILLE MASONRY ENTERTAIN

Magnificent Banquet Last Night—Number of Guests Present.

There was an enjoyable time among the Higginsville Masons last night, the occasion having been that of the annual banquet of the Masonic lodge of that place. In addition to a magnificent spread prepared for the guests there was a literary program that proved highly entertaining.

The meeting was called to order by C. F. Grimes, worshipful master of the lodge, a few minutes after eight o'clock, and after a few remarks, the audience joined in and sang "America." A pleasing feature of the evening's entertainment followed in the nature of a recitation, "The Level and the Square," by little Miss Vera Grimes, only six years of age.

The address of the evening was then delivered by C. A. Keith, who talked most interestingly for thirty minutes on "Masonry and Masonic Works," illustrating his remarks with beautiful magic lantern views. Mr. Keith has an easy delivery and his address was entertaining throughout.

The menu served was a most elaborate one, consisting of old country ham and turkey, fruit salad, oyster salad, salmon salad, chicken salad, celery, pickles and olives, coffee, beaten biscuit, assorted ice cream, chocolate and different flavors, all varieties of cake.

About 300 guests were present. It was a social function that will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to be in attendance.

Gave Up His Wife for \$1,300

John, Mo., Dec. 25.—"I congratulate you upon your elopement."

These words were used by John Bulitz when he met G. K. Kimball in this city after having followed him 2,000 miles.

After selling their house and lot and all household goods, Mrs. Bulitz and G. K. Kimball left Oshkosh, Wis., together December 6. Since that time they have lived together as husband and wife, have been in Chicago and Denver and arrived in Joplin last week. Mrs. Bulitz was accompanied by her little boy, aged 4 years, and the hope of recovering the boy and some of the \$4,000 which his wife received for the property caused Bulitz to follow the eloping couple.

When discovered, Mrs. Bulitz and Kimball were living together in a rooming house here. A warrant was issued and they were arrested. Bulitz accompanied the officer who made the arrest, and as soon as the door to the guilty parties' apartment was opened, he caught sight of his little boy and at once took the little fellow in his arms, paying no attention to his wife, who burst into tears upon seeing her husband. She seemed very much surprised. Kimball was not in the room, but was found elsewhere in the city and taken into custody.

As soon as Bulitz met the destroyer of his home, he offered his hand and said: "I congratulate you upon your elopement."

The two men shook hands, and in a few minutes were making arrangements for a settlement. The couple were fined \$1 and cost each. While in court articles of agreement were signed by Bulitz and his wife, which gave him possession of the little boy. Mrs. Bulitz returned \$1,300 of the \$4,000 she had received for the property sold. Bulitz returned to his home in Oshkosh.

Union Services.

As a result of the late union services in which the good will of the congregations of Lexington, the one for the other, was manifest. The Ministers' Alliance have arranged for a number of union services to be held one each month. The first of these will be held on Sunday night, December 29th. Two services, one at the Baptist and the other at the Christian church will be held, the congregations all participating. All who attended services at the tabernacle during the late meetings and all others are urged to be present and enjoy these services. Dr. Gordon will preach at the Baptist church and Rev. Given at the Christian. Special and congregational singing.

BLACK PAGE IN MISSOURI WAR HISTORY.

Another Writer Tells of the Noted Palmyra Massacre—No Voluntary Substitution.

WANTON MURDER OF TEN BRAVE, INNOCENT MEN.

Chronicle of Fact an Eye-Witness—Heroic Deportment of a Monroe County Officer.

(Written by a resident of Mexico, Mo.)

Names of the ten men who were executed at Palmyra, Mo., Oct. 18, 1862:

Willis Baker, Lewis county. Thomas Hempton, Lewis county. Morgan Bixler, Lewis county. J. Y. McPheeters, Lewis county. Robert Hutson, Ralls county. John M. Wade, Ralls county. Marion Lair, Ralls county. Capt. Thos. A. Snider, Monroe county. Elzeir Lake, Scotland county.

There was perhaps no single event of the civil war of Missouri that attracted more attention and was viewed with more horror than the shooting of ten men at Palmyra by order of Gen. John McNeil on the 18th day of October, 1862. Palmyra is situated ten miles southwest of Quincy, Ill., near the Mississippi river.

It was on these border lines between the free and slave states that the fraternal strife was waged with the greatest bitterness. It was the fortune of the writer to have his home at Palmyra at the time referred to and during most of the years of the war. Most of the citizens of the town and county were southern men and southern sympathizers, though some families were divided and brother was arrayed against brother and father against son. A short time before the event of the shooting of the ten men, Col. Porter, in command of a large body of "bushwhackers," as they were called, clashed into Palmyra and made an attack on the court house and jail, in which a number of rebels were held as prisoners by the union forces then in possession of the town.

My house was in line between the firing parties, which made it rather an undesirable place of residence for myself, wife and two children. Col. Porter succeeded in releasing some of the prisoners, and took with them an old citizen of the town, a union man, by the name of Andrew Aulsman. This man Aulsman, while not in the ranks of the militia, had made himself very obnoxious to the southern people by reporting to the union authorities those whom he regarded as rebels or rebel sympathizers; and it was a matter of rejoicing in the town that he was carried away by Porter's men. I was lamenting the loss of a fine bay horse that Porter's men seemed to take a fancy to as they were retreating from town. At this time Col. Straughn, of Shelby county, was the provost marshal of the district, and Gen. John McNeil commandant at the post. A few days after the Porter raid, an order was issued by Gen. McNeil, at the instigation of Col. Straughn, as I understood, to the effect that if within ten days Aulsman was not brought in alive and delivered up, ten men, prisoners in the hands of the federals, would be shot in retaliation. This order was regarded as a mere threat and not much importance attached to it by the citizens. As the days rapidly passed, however, and nothing was heard of Aulsman, some uneasiness began to be felt by the citizens. This uneasiness was increased as the limit of the ten days approached, and it was learned that ten men had been selected by lot to be executed if Aulsman was not brought in at the expiration of the time. And yet scarcely anyone in town could bring themselves to believe that such a diabolical order would be carried out. The men selected to be shot were taken at random from among a large number, mostly held under suspicion, who had not had a trial but were supposed to be bushwhackers, or rebel sympathizers. At last the ten days expired and Aulsman did not appear, and for the simple reason that he was dead, having been shot in the woods by his captors. This, however, was not known at the time by the

federal officers. It was denied and not believed by many for a long time. Whether he was shot by order or approval of Col. Porter, I have never known, but men are living today who know the spot where Andrew Aulsman was shot and by whom.

Early in the morning of the eleventh day it was noticed that some unusual preparations were going on about the court house and jail and it was not long till there was unmistakable signs that the order of death to the ten men was about to be carried into effect.

I refused to believe till I saw with my own eyes, ten wagons drive up in order, each taking a victim, seated upon his coffin, filing out in procession up Main street toward the fair grounds. Citizens along the line looked on in mute astonishment, scarcely able to believe their own eyes.

Not a word was spoken by any one, but like dim spectres, seated upon their coffins, they moved slowly along to the place of doom. Strong men, unable to bear the sight, withdrew in doors and wept like children. One exception there was, and in memory's gallery there hangs one picture that can never be erased, and that has haunted me a thousand times. Capt. Snider, of Monroe county, young, tall, handsome, graceful, with long black hair, falling down upon his shoulders, stood erect by the side of his coffin, silently waving a farewell to friends he recognized along the street.

A friend of mine who went out to the ground to take charge of his body and one of the others, told me that upon the word of "fire" all fell instantaneously killed, except Capt. Snider, who fell wounded to his knees, and was dispatched by pistol shots while in that position. I remember this fair ground spot with feelings of mingled pleasure and horror. There I first met the country girl, who afterwards became my wife. The spot was forever abandoned for all public uses, and today is regarded as the "field of blood."

I have always thought that Colonel Straughn was more responsible for the shooting of these ten men than was Col. McNeil. He had a wonderful influence over men, and had the reputation of being a man of shocking immorality.

I have learned from good authority that he came to a horrible end after the war at New Orleans.

I have often seen the statement that a young man voluntarily ordered himself a substitute in place of one of the doomed men, and preachers have used the supposed fact as an illustration of the substitutionary death of Christ. The story is not true. Upon the urgent appeals of the wife and children of one of these men he was released and a young man selected to take his place, but it was not a voluntary act.

The killing of Aulsman was a great crime, and the parties to it ought to have been punished, but it was no justification of the wholesale massacre by Straughn and McNeil, of men who were in no way responsible for the death of Aulsman. I was a union man throughout the war, but never had a word of apology for this cruel and unwarranted deed, and regard it as one most atrocious in all the history of the war.

Married at Independence.

On the 23d of this month at the Commercial hotel in Independence, occurred the marriage of Prof. Thomas Preston Middleton, of near Oak Grove, a successful young school teacher, and Miss Marguerite Gaines, of Bates City. Elder L. Z. Burr, pastor of the Oak Grove Christian church performed the ceremony. The bride is a sister to Dr. E. F. Gaines, of Bates City.

The INTELLIGENCER extends congratulations.

STEAMBOAT FIRE.

Mother Perished While Trying to Save Her Child

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 25.—The disaster which totally destroyed the steamer Sun, running in the Memphis and Fulton trade, and summarily wiped out four lives at an early hour this morning, was one of the worst ever occurring in Memphis.

The dead are D. A. Rainey and wife of Old River, Ark., and Mrs. G. M. Timbs and baby of Richardson, Tenn.

There were about ten passengers, who spent the night on board the boat, and many thrilling narratives are being told of their narrow escapes. Mrs. Timbs had almost reached a point of safety when she remembered her baby, and going back for it met her death when the hurricane deck fell in. It is thought that she reached the child, and, seeing death staring them both in the face, threw the infant into the river in the hope that it might be saved. Her body was identified by her husband by a ring on her finger. No trace of the child has been found.

Her sister, Miss Josie Hammers, slept with her last night, and had one of the narrowest of escapes. She met her sister's husband in the cabin, and after they had tried by every means to reach the latter's wife, they made their way to the stern-wheel of the boat and jumped from there to a lot of driftwood, from which they were rescued by fireman.

Nothing was ever heard from Rainey and his wife after the alarm of fire until the finding of the bodies. While they have not been positively identified, it is thought that all the rest of the passengers have been accounted for. A number of passengers were compelled to jump into the river and were rescued by tugs in the harbor.

The cargo on the boat had not been unloaded, and will be a complete loss, including a lot of cotton and cotton seed. Only the hull of the boat escaped damage by the flames. The Sun was 3 years old.

The fire originated in a pile of seed cotton on the boiler deck, and probably was started by a spark from the furnace. The boat was valued at \$10,000, and was about half insured. The cargo was totally destroyed.

Missouri Notes.

"More Hog Stealing" is the cheerful heading of an item in a Moberly paper.

Andrew county is prosperous. Two new banks have lately been established in Savannah.

Mayor Babcock of Sedalia refused to grant a permit to a man who wanted to bury himself alive.

A new use has been found for the heretofore useless poodle dog. A St. Joseph man knocked his wife down with her pet the other day.

Trimble has a versatile man who, among other things, is a wood dealer, wood chopper, grain dealer, stock dealer and blacksmith.

An old weather prophet of Rolla is so regular in his prognostications that he makes some money by turning out sleds before winter begins.

Because the leader insisted on drinking all the whisky along the route, a minstrel troupe that visited several of the larger towns has disbanded.

Since the bowling alley moved from Sedalia to Nevada residents of the latter town are trying to get the shoe factory which was refused a location in Sedalia.

The St. Joseph news agrees with the Atchison Globe's suggestion that Prof. Dyche's collection of mounted animals be made more of a feature at the St. Louis World's fair than Tom Anderson's Indians.

Probate court judges from the various counties will meet in St. Louis January 2, 3 and 4 for the purpose of organizing an association. One of the objects of the proposed organization is to recommend to the legislature a revision of the probate or administration laws, and secure, if possible, the passage of a law reducing the period of administration of estates from two years to one year and a general revision of the probate laws.

DEATH OF PIONEER CITIZEN.

John P. Herr Passed Away at His Home at Oak Grove.

HELPED TO BUILD UP LEXINGTON.

Was Founder of and Named Mayview—Lost Sight Years Ago.

John P. Herr, Oak Grove's oldest citizen, died a few days since at the age of 84 years. He was a native of Maryland. He was a house builder and a carpenter.

In 1833, says the Oak Grove Banner, Mr. Herr, in company with Wm. North, arrived in Lafayette county. They landed at the then new town of Waverly just sixty four years ago. After remaining in Waverly a month or so Mr. Herr went to Lexington and began working at his trade. Mr. Herr said there were only two houses, and they partly incomplete, in the new part of the town, now Lexington proper, when he located there; and when he left Lexington years afterwards, there were not fifty houses in the town on which he had not worked, and most of which he had built entire. His last carpenter work in Lexington was about the year 1850 when he built the Baptist church.

He was married in 1840, to Miss Sarah H. Fitzpatrick of Lexington. Eight children were born to them—three of whom are now living at Mayview, viz: Daniel and Joseph Herr and Mrs. Anna Hammonds. Both his sons are well known business men of Lafayette county.

In 1860, Mr. Herr bought, by sale under deed of trust, 160 acres of raw prairie land, including the eastern portion of Heath's mound, upon which the town of Mayview is located. He hired his raw land broken up and on the following year moved to it. The war broke out and Mr. Herr had a hard time making a living for himself and family, although he had \$4,000 stock in the Farmers bank at Lexington. The federalists seized the funds of this bank soon after the war began, but before they reached Warrensburg they were met and driven back by General Price. They buried their booty just outside of their entrenched embankments, in front of the old college in Lexington. At the surrender of General Mulligan, these funds were turned over to General Price, who, in his magnanimity, gave them over to the bank and Mr. Herr recovered 90 cents on the dollar on his bank stock. He afterwards bought land adjoining his farm and a few years ago owned a fine farm of 417 acres.

He was one of the founders of the town of Mayview and had the honor of naming that place. He was the organizer and postmaster of Benning postoffice, afterwards called Mayview. Mr. Herr was, during his many years residence in Lafayette county, considered the most public spirited of any farmer in his section. At one time he gave \$800 toward constructing the Christian church at Mayview.

In January, 1866, Mr. Herr was married to Mrs. Carrie F. Brown of Ohio, his first wife having died, and then moved from Mayview to Oak Grove where they have kept a store ever since.

Mr. Herr was an old-time Whig up to the civil war when he changed to a democrat and had voted that ticket ever since. Although being entirely blind for the past seven years, he had lost none of his politeness nor ambition.

Home From Philippines.

Joseph Bauerle, a Lexington boy who has been seeing service in the Philippine islands as a soldier for the past three years, has been honorably discharged and has returned to his home. He was a member of Company F, Twentieth United States infantry. Mr. Bauerle was not favorably impressed with life in that far-away country and was glad to get home again.

Miss Helen McIntyre returned to Kansas City Thursday morning, after a visit of a few days with home folks.